

IPM JK

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group art unit: 3679; Conf. No.: 8348
Examiner: Gregory John Binda

In Re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Applicant(s): Ryouichi TOKIOKA et al.

Serial No.: 10/590,570

Filed: August 24, 2006

Allowed: March 2, 2010

For: EXPANDABLE SHAFT

Atty. ref.: AI 422NP



) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT AND
CERTIFICATION UNDER
37 CFR § 1.97(e)

May 13, 2010

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an information disclosure statement submitted in compliance with the timing requirements of 37 CFR § 1.97(d), i.e., after the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Also, please find enclosed the requisite fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

Attached are copies of five Japanese patent documents, which were first cited on March 4, 2010, in a foreign Notification of Reasons for Refusal, issued in connection with the corresponding Japanese patent application No. 2005-268558. Any relevance of the document No. 61-28918 can be gleaned from the attached English-language translation of the document. The documents are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Also listed on the Form PTO-1449 are four U.S. patent documents Nos. US 2005/0257639 A1, US 2002/0169026 A1, and US 4,705,491, which correspond to the Japanese patent documents Nos. 2004-106599, 2002-340007, and 61-211527, respectively, and from which any relevance of the Japanese patent documents can be gleaned. Please note that U.S. patent No. US 4,898,566, which corresponds to the Japanese patent document No. 63-231010, is not being listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, since it was previously listed on the Form PTO/SB/08a/b submitted with the IDS filed on August 24, 2006.

It is hereby certified that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

A credit card payment form PTO-2038 in the amount of the requisite fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) also is enclosed. Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissionnaire is hereby authorized to charge the fee, or credit any overpayment to our deposit account No. 18-0002, and is requested to notify us accordingly.

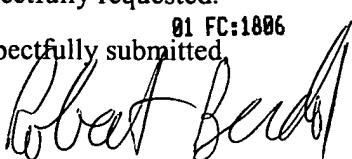
Consideration of the listed documents is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



Robert H. Berdo, Jr. – Reg. No. 38,075

RABIN & BERDO, PC – Customer No. 23995

Fax: (202) 408-0924

Telephone: (202) 371-8976

May 13, 2010

Date

RHB/vm